

The George-Anne

March 2, 2005

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The GEORGE-ANNE

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Wednesday, March 2, 2005 • Volume 77, Number 70

Men's Basketball

Men's Basketball heads to Chattanooga, Tenn. for the SoCon Tournament. Check out page 6 for more information on what to expect from the Eagles in this tournament.



AROUND the HOUSE

Sports

- Eagle Baseball falls to the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets
- Braves extend Hudson's contract to assure solid pitching for years to come

Page 6

Opinions

- Luke Hearn gives his opinion on the death penalty developments
- Progressive Media columnist Jack Shaheen addresses demonization of Arab Americans on network TV

Page 4

Only In America

- **Elderly couple accused of selling pot**
DANVILLE, W.Va. - A 78-year-old woman faces drug charges and authorities are searching for her 72-year-old boyfriend after police found more than a pound of marijuana stashed in a freezer on her property. State police arrested Mollie Williams last week after responding to a dispute between her granddaughter and the granddaughter's husband, who were arguing over drugs. Police learned the man allegedly had bought marijuana from Williams, State Police Cpl. Larry O'Bryan said Monday. Armed with a search warrant and a drug-sniffing dog, troopers went to Williams' residence near Danville. The dog led troopers to a freezer in an outbuilding where the marijuana, worth an estimated \$4,000, was hidden under frozen meat and other food, O'Bryan said. Williams was jailed and later released on \$15,000 bond. Her live-in boyfriend, Jack White, who was recovering from heart bypass surgery, was given the opportunity to turn himself in but failed to do so, authorities said. He remained at large Monday.

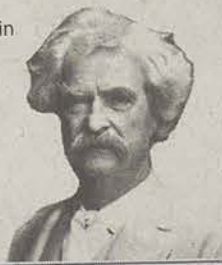
More OIA on

Page 3

Quote of the Day

"Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away and a sunny spirit takes their place."

-Mark Twain



Weekday Weather

Wednesday



HIGH
55°
LOW
34°

Sunny

Thursday



HIGH
58°
LOW
34°

Mostly Cloudy

Inside

- Police Beat 2
- News Briefs 3
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- Sports 6
- Classifieds 5
- Crosswords 5
- Comics 5

GSU students mostly upbeat about proposed transit system

By Luke Hearn

ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu

Charlie McCarter has to leave his house at least 30 minutes before class each day to ensure he finds a parking spot on campus. Considering he lives about a mile and a half from the campus, he feels this is quite ridiculous.

"Every day I deal with the jam-packed parking lots before class, and it really gets on my nerves," said McCarter, a junior majoring in Construction Management. "The parking situation is crazy."

McCarter's problem is not unique. Many Georgia Southern students share his concerns about parking. Senior Brook Dollar, a finance major, says that she didn't bother to buy a parking permit this year, but instead parks on Olympic Boulevard—known as Greek Row by some—and walks to class from there. She said the parking on campus is so crowded that she has no other option.

"I park on Greek Row because it's so hard to find a parking spot on campus," she said.

The news that a transit system could be implemented on the GSU campus as early as fall 2005 has some students hopeful about the overall parking situation.

Dollar believes this new system will be beneficial to the parking situation, though she said that she might not utilize the system.

"I think the transit system is a great idea, although I don't know if I'd use it or not," Dollar said. "Considering everyone will have to pay a transit fee [if the system is in effect] it's

See STUDENTS, page 2



Luke Hearn/STAFF

Charlie McCarter, a junior Construction Management major, searches for a parking spot in the Russell Union parking lot. Students have continually expressed concern about the parking problems on campus and most agree that the proposed transit system would help.

Supreme Court strikes down death penalty for juveniles

By Hope Yen

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A closely divided Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that it's unconstitutional to execute juvenile killers, ending a practice in 19 states that has been roundly condemned by many of America's closest allies.

The 5-4 decision throws out the death sentences of 72 murderers who were under 18 when they committed their crimes and bars states from seeking to execute minors for future crimes.

The executions, the court said, violate the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

"The age of 18 is the point where society draws the line for many purposes between childhood and adulthood. It is, we conclude, the age at which the line for death eligibility ought to rest," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote.

See DEATH, page 2

Historic rulings on the death penalty

The Supreme Court has answered pivotal questions regarding the constitutionality of the death penalty seven times since 1972.

Supreme Court death penalty rulings, 1972-present

1972	1987	1989	2005
Furman v. Georgia Court said death penalty does not violate Constitution, but its application in many states does. Executions essentially end.	McCleskey v. Georgia Death penalty held as constitutional even when statistics show racial bias was applied.	Stanford v. Kentucky Ruling upheld constitutionality of executions for juveniles older than 15.	Roper v. Simmons Court ruled that the Constitution forbids the execution of killers under 18 when crime was committed.
1976 Gregg v. Georgia Ruling said state death penalty statute is constitutional. Executions resume.	1988 Thompson v. Oklahoma Justices ruled that offenders younger than 16 may not be executed.	2002 Atkins v. Virginia Court said that executing retarded criminals is cruel and unusual punishment.	

Thefacebook not endorsed by GSU

Technology fees are not being used by GSU to register students on the popular web site thefacebook.com

By Luke Hearn

ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu

There's a new sensation sweeping college campuses across the nation.

It's not a new drink or clothing line, nor it is a new social organization. It's a web site — called *thefacebook.com* — and it's become a very popular place for college students to "hang out" and meet other students across the nation.

Signs posted across campus advertising *thefacebook.com* say that all Georgia Southern students are required to sign up at the web site because student technology fees pay for the registration.

According to GSU spokesperson Mike Sullivan, the university is not affiliated with *thefacebook.com* in any way.

"No student fee is going to these people," Sullivan said. "There is no affiliation between Georgia Southern and *thefacebook.com*, and if anyone claims we're paying them in regards to the web site, that is incorrect."

According to Connie Palfy in the GSU Office of Business and Finance, the university has a sales and solicitation policy that addresses advertisements on campus.

While she could not comment on the legitimacy of the signs touting *thefacebook.com*, she did say that if GSU were to notify students about something they were required to do, it would be through more formal measures than hanging signs throughout campus.

According to the site, there are currently over 2,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni registered at *thefacebook.com*, and quite a few see the site as interesting, yet addictive. Britni Rowen, a junior Communication Arts major, said that the site is very addicting at first. "When I first joined it was pretty addicting, but now it's fading away," Rowen said.

Creating a profile on *thefacebook.com* is free, but GSU administrators say that students should use caution when deciding what information to share with the site.

"There are some out there being careless with the information they provide, putting their home address, class schedule and other personal information on the site," said GSU Dean of Students Georj Lewis. "Putting that kind of information out there on the Internet is a perfect recipe for a stalker."

Lewis also said that he sees no problem with students using the web site, but said he hopes that students are careful with the information they divulge.

-Mike Sullivan, GSU spokesperson

Proposed bill hopes to get teen drivers off cell phones

By Josh Kerr

jkerr1@georgiasouthern.edu

A new proposal to enter the state legislature could make driving and talking on a cell phone illegal for anyone under the age of 18.

Stephanie Benfield, Democrat from Decatur, believes the bill has potential to save young lives. "I just want teens to pull over [before using phones]," she says. Her bill would make it illegal to operate a vehicle while using a cell phone for anyone under 18.

Police would not be allowed to pull over everyone who drives while talking on the phone. But people pulled over for other infractions, such as speeding or reckless driving, could have an additional citation given for using a phone if they are younger than 18.

This isn't the first proposal to be introduced to the state law making body, but it has received the most hype thus far. In the past, no proposals on cell phone bans for young drivers have passed.

Much controversy has surrounded cell phone use and its possible contribution to automobile accidents. According to a recent survey conducted by Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), 62 percent of high school drivers said they drive and use cell phones at the same time. While this group of drivers only makes up seven percent of the nation's drivers, it accounts for 15 percent of all automobile accidents. Additionally, automobile accidents are the leading cause of death for young drivers ages 15 to 20.



Special Photo

Teenaged drivers in Georgia could face fines for driving while talking on their cell phones if a newly proposed bill passes.

While there are other laws in place to try and prevent teen automobile deaths, currently only New Jersey and Maine have bans on teen cell phone use while driving.

The state of Georgia already has restrictions on

See DRIVING, page 2

POLICE BEAT

02-22-2005

- Hannah Hudson, 21, of 203 N. Columbia St., Milledgeville, Ga., was charged with DUI and failure to yield roadway.
- A University employee reported an unknown person used a counterfeit \$20 bill to make a purchase.
- Officers issued two traffic citations and two traffic warnings, investigated one traffic accident, assisted 11 motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

02-23-2005

- Officers issued one traffic citation and two traffic warnings, investigated one traffic accident, assisted three motorists and one injured person, and responded to two fire alarms.

02-24-2005

- A case of aggravated assault was reported at the Southern Pines residence hall. The incident is being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the University Police.
- A student reported someone took several items from his book bag at the Recreation Activity Center.
- A Watson Hall resident reported someone took her cell phone

while she was at the Russell Union.

- A University employee reported someone removed some parts from a computer at Hendricks Hall.
- Officers issued three traffic warnings, investigated one traffic accident, assisted one injured person and responded to two fire alarms.

02-25-2005

- Darius Sinshaw Sidhwa, 19, of Olliff Hall, was charged with underage drinking and possession of a false I.D.
- A purse was taken from the Russell Union computer lab.
- A wallet was taken from Winburn Hall.
- Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident, assisted two motorists and responded to two fire alarms.

02-26-2005

- Beau Wesley Hamilton, 20, of Campus Club Apartments, Statesboro, was charged with underage drinking, obstruction of an officer and possession of a false I.D.
- A case of simple battery was reported at the Nessmith-Lane

Continuing Education Building.

- A wallet was taken from a vehicle near the Landrum Center.
- Officers issued one traffic warning, investigated one traffic accident, assisted two motorists and responded to one fire alarm.

02-27-2005

- Officers issued one traffic citation, assisted one motorist and one sick person, and responded to one vehicle fire and one fire alarm.

02-28-2005

- Deirda Yvette Davis, 19, of Southern Pines residence hall, was charged with simple battery.
- Clay Mitchell Durden, 26, of Buck Creek Road, Sylvania, Ga., was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.
- Jana Renee Loftin, 20, of Southern Pines residence hall, was charged with simple battery.
- A bicycle was taken from Kennedy Hall.
- Officers issued one traffic citation and two traffic warnings, investigated one traffic accident and assisted six motorists.

— All Police Beat information compiled from University Police Reports.

STUDENTS, FROM PAGE 1

something that everyone should consider."

Freshman Brittany Winston, who does not have a parking permit, says the transit system would be very helpful to her, and would also save students money.

"Parking and traffic on campus is so bad, the transit system would definitely be helpful," she said.

If the transit system does become a part of the GSU campus in the fall, students would be able to park for free at Paulson Stadium and take a bus to campus. Certain students, those living directly across from campus, on Olympic Boulevard, and on Lanier Drive north of the 301 Bypass,

would not be allowed to drive onto campus, but everyone—regardless of residence—would be able to use the system.

While McCarter thinks the transit system is a good idea, he doesn't like the idea that some students will be banned from driving to campus.

"The transit system is a good thought, and I think it would help some of the congestion on campus, but I don't think certain people should be told that they cannot drive to campus just because of where they might live," he said.

Student Government President Charisse Perkins, speaking on behalf of SGA, said that the student govern-

ing body supports the transit system, but says there are some things that need to be worked out before the system is implemented in August.

"We support the idea of a transit system, and believe it will help alleviate some of the traffic and parking problems on campus, but we think that it is really important that the information about the new system is out to students as soon as possible," she said.

Perkins also said that SGA would like to possibly see the routes re-examined. Perkins added the SGA is glad environmentally friendly buses will be used if the system is approved.

DEATH, FROM PAGE 1

The ruling continues the court's practice of narrowing the scope of the death penalty, which justices reinstated in 1976. Executions for those 15 and younger when they committed their crimes were outlawed in 1988. Three years ago justices banned death sentences for the mentally retarded.

Tuesday's ruling prevents states from making 16- and 17-year-olds eligible for execution.

Officials in Prince William County, Va., said Tuesday they will not prosecute a murder case there against teen sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, who is already serving life in prison in two of the 10 sniper killings that terrorized the Washington area in 2002. Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Ebert had hoped to get the death penalty for Malvo, who was 17 at the time of the killings, but said

another trial would now be an unnecessary expense.

Juvenile offenders have been put to death in recent years in only a few other countries, including Iran, Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia. Kennedy cited international opposition to the practice.

In a dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia disputed that there is a trend and chastised his colleagues for taking power from the states.

Death penalty opponents quickly cheered the ruling.

The Supreme Court has permitted states to impose capital punishment since 1976. Twenty-two of the people put to death since then were juveniles when they committed their crimes. Texas executed the most, 13, and also has the most on death row now—29. More than 3,400 inmates await

execution in the 38 states that allow death sentences.

The four most liberal Supreme Court justices—John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer—had gone on record in 2002 opposing the death penalty for juveniles, calling it "shameful." Those four, joined by Kennedy, formed Tuesday's decision.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas joined Scalia in seeking to uphold the executions.

The 19 states allow executions for people under age 18 are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Texas and Virginia.

DRIVING, FROM PAGE 1

the hours first-year drivers can operate a vehicle, and the amount of passengers allowed in the vehicle.

These laws are often hard to enforce, as an officer cannot discern the exact age of a driver while on the road and cannot pull them over without the driver committing a traffic infraction. For this same reason, a cell phone ban would be hard to enforce as well.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission, it is projected that the number of states with anti-cell phone legislation will increase dramatically in the near future. The NHSTA also notes that only driving while intoxicated hinders reaction time more than while operating a vehicle and talking on a phone.

Other teen-driving proposals

include even stricter passenger laws and a bill that would allow parents to have their minor child's license revoked by the state.

While none of these are currently laws, some may be introduced to the deciding body of Georgia this voting term along with Benfield's rally against cell phone use amongst young drivers.

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Application Deadline
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For more information contact the Office of Admissions at 912.681.5467.



Only in America

Nacho man pleads guilty

MARYVILLE — A man caught by police last summer on his 23rd birthday running naked and covered in nacho cheese has pleaded guilty to burglary, public intoxication and other charges.

But he won't be going to jail.

In a plea deal with prosecutors,

Maryville, Tenn.,

David Monn was sentenced to three years in prison Monday but was given supervised probation.

Prosecutors said Monn was drunk when he broke into a swimming pool snack bar in July 2004.

A police officer found Monn in the facility's parking lot after Monn had apparently scaled an 8-foot-tall fence and was seen running toward a Jeep with a box of stolen snacks and a container of nacho cheese.

In his Jeep, Maryville officers found clothing and an open bottle of vodka.

Toothbrush with a soundtrack

PROVIDENCE — A new toothbrush will come with its own soundtrack.

The toy company Hasbro has developed "Tooth Tunes," a brush that uses special technology to transmit

music through the teeth to the

ear.

Rhode Island

The toothbrush will be marketed to all age groups, but Hasbro is especially interested in kids, who sometimes need an extra incentive to brush.

Tooth Tunes will hit CVS stores in September and cost about ten dollars.

The user presses a button on the toothbrush handle, activating a two-minute song that's stored on a tiny microchip.

Hasbro is working on lining up the music.

It says it has already secured the rights to the 1960s song "Do You Believe in Magic?"

Road kill candy not a hit

TRENTON — Animal rights activists are disgusted by a new candy from Kraft Foods Inc. that's shaped like critters run over by cars — complete with tire treads.

The fruity-flavored Trolli Road Kill

Gummi Candy

— in shapes of partly flattened snakes, chickens and squirrels — fosters

cruelty toward animals, according to the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The society is considering petition drives, boycotts and letter-writing campaigns to get the candy pulled from the market, Stanton said.

After receiving a complaint from the NJSPCA Wednesday, Kraft officials pulled an animated advertisement from Trolli's Web site that featured car headlights and animals. No other decisions on changes have been made, said Kraft spokesman Larry Baumann.

In some cases, they say, the custodial parents earn more than the

noncustodial ones.

They point to cases where moms have gone on to remarry wealthy second husbands, while the first husband struggles with child support payments.

Man sentenced for 95 counts of ID theft

ATLANTA — A Marietta man was sentenced to more than 5 years in prison on Tuesday for stealing people's identities while working at a department store and using the information to open up bogus credit card accounts.

Hikmet Uyaniker, 49, was sentenced to 5 years and 10 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$315,818 for the 95 counts of identity theft and Social Security fraud.

From April 2001 through September 2002, he opened dozens of credit card accounts in the names of people he had stolen while working at a major department store chain.

Uyaniker opened at least 16 bank accounts in Georgia and Alabama, using some of the fraudulently obtained identity information.

He managed to open more than 220 credit cards and used those credit

cards under the stolen identities to make charges at "phony" companies he had established, which he used to pay himself with.

Uyaniker agreed to forfeit the money in the bank accounts, about \$31,000, which will be used to compensate the victims of the crime.

Once released from prison, he will need to complete 100 hours of community service and will need permission from his probation officer before opening any new credit lines during his three years of supervision.

Uyaniker pleaded guilty to the charges in November.

BTK suspect charged with 10 murder counts

WICHITA, Kan. — Dennis Rader, the churchgoing family man and Cub Scout leader accused of leading a double life as the BTK serial killer, was charged Tuesday with 10 counts of first-degree murder.

Rader made his first court appearance since his Friday arrest by videoconference from his cell at the Sedgewick County detention center.

During the brief hearing, Rader sat with his hands folded behind a small desk.

National News Briefs

Taxis, limos pulled off streets because of bogus insurance

ATLANTA — Thousands of taxis and limousines are being pulled off Georgia streets because authorities say the companies who own them were sold millions of dollars in bogus insurance policies.

A cease-and-desist order was issued Tuesday against two businesses that allegedly sold the fake policies to more than 150 companies throughout the state.

State Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine said there's no way to avoid at least temporarily pulling off

the road vehicles that are not legally insured — even when their owners thought they were obeying the law.

"These are innocent victims; they wrote a check and paid the premiums," Oxendine said. "But once we notify them, they will be breaking the law if they continue to operate before they get insurance."

Oxendine said it will probably take three or four days to notify all the affected companies. About 70 of the roughly 150 that have already been identified are in the Atlanta area, he

said, but companies in virtually all of Georgia's largest cities were affected.

Phoenix Brokers Inc. and Main Street Brokerage Inc., both located in Barnesville, allegedly collected nearly \$3 million in fraudulent insurance premiums during the past 2 1/2 years.

Soon after the cease-and-desist order was issued, authorities arrested co-owner Robert Waterhouse at his home in Thomaston, Ga.

An arrest warrant was issued for his father and co-owner, Godfrey Waterhouse.



Robert Waterhouse, center, is escorted to the Lamar County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center in Barnesville on Tuesday.

Lawmakers consider new child support rules

ATLANTA — After years of complaints that divorced dads in Georgia sometimes pay too much in child support, the Legislature is considering sweeping changes to the way judges assign payments to noncustodial parents.

A bill put forward by Republican leaders in the House would direct judges to consider the incomes of both parents, not just the income of the noncustodial one, when setting child support.

The bill also sets up payment reductions for noncustodial parents who spend as little as four days a year with the child.

The proposal has long been pushed for by divorced parents, mostly dads, who say the current system is unfair.

Although judges have discretion to tweak the child support paid by noncustodial parents — which generally ranges from 17 percent to 37 percent of income, depending on the number of children — some dads say judges don't consider the full financial picture of both parents.

In some cases, they say, the custodial parents earn more than the

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They point to cases where moms have gone on to remarry wealthy second husbands, while the first husband struggles with child support payments.

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Our Opinion

Don't become an easy target

Isn't the Internet an awesome thing?

We think it is. Never in the history of humankind has there been a way for the entire world to connect in an instant like we can now. The World Wide Web as we know it is approaching its 15th birthday and, for most Georgia Southern students, it's been a part of life since at least puberty. In fact, it's become such a part of every day life that we sometimes take it for granted, and all too often overlook the dangers lurking behind our browsers.

Today's front-page story on *thefacebook.com* provides a good example of where students get careless with personal information on the Web. Many university departments and student organizations that make student safety a priority work constantly to inform the campus community about how crimes like theft and rape can be prevented, yet hundreds of students have posted dangerously specific contact information such as street address and cell phone numbers on the site.

It's easy to get caught up in the sense of community a site like facebook creates. It connects you to people who live and work the same way you do, people who share common educational goals and have GSU spirit. One can double their friendships in an hour by uniting with those who share common interests or uniting with friends of other friends.

There's something about the allure of having a way for future and long-lost friends alike to contact you out of the blue. Many high schools even appear on Facebook, making it a free alternative to expensive sites like *classmates.com* for getting back in touch with old buddies (or old flames). Users can post pictures, send mail and search through any university in the database.

Some of us G-A staffers have accounts, and we know firsthand what a nice, peaceful utopia Facebook seems to have spawned. There's even a group for G-A fans, and we can't argue against that. Unfortunately, we can't just enjoy the sense of camaraderie. The reality is that even sites like Facebook are open to anyone on the Internet who might care to lie about who they are and what they're looking for.

It's disappointing that we have to be so guarded. But we care about the safety of everyone in the community. We don't want our next article to be about a student whose residence was broken into and ravaged or another beautiful GSU woman whose privacy has been violated.

Don't list phone numbers, addresses or any other information that could lead to identification of your residence or identity theft. Enjoy what networking sites have to offer. But please, protect yourself from the unknown.

Letter to the Editor

In Support of GSU Rugby

This letter is in response to last Thursday's front-page *George-Anne* article concerning the GSU Rugby team and the punishment placed on the team by the university.

There has been a lot of discussion around the GSU campus this past weekend due to lack of knowledge about the Rugby Team and much deliberation about whether or not the university's decision to take away this year's season the week before the teams first playoff game was fair.

Although we have had a GSU Rugby team since 1976, not many people know much about the team or sport because it is regarded by GSU as a "club sport" equal to university club sports such as Full Contact Dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee, Billiard Club, Equestrian Club, etc. Not to diminish the significance of any club sports at Georgia Southern, or how successful they may be, but the GSU Rugby team has placed itself at a higher level than even GSU seems to recognize.

Each year the team struggles to find someone to be certified on paper as the coach in accordance with USA Rugby guidelines. A player this year, injured former back captain Jacob Youngblood, went through the process of being certified as the coach. Other older players help to teach and coach as well.

The team is funded along with other club sports by the CRI/RAC department, but the majority of the money needed to travel and compete comes from team fundraising, GSU Rugby Alumni, some small private donations and the players themselves. The team practices and competes year round, during fall semester to be ranked for what USA Rugby calls the "Matrix" Season, which takes place during spring semester.

GSU Rugby competes against and beats Division I teams such as University of Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Florida State, Clemson and Tennessee. Due to lack of support from the university, the team is regarded by USA Rugby as a Division II team. Those included in GSU Rugby's division are

Georgia Tech, Auburn, the University of South Carolina and UNC Wilmington.

The GSU Rugby team upholds a winning tradition. Before having to forfeit their last Matrix Season match, this year's team was undefeated, with hopes of representing the USA Rugby South Division in California at the USA Rugby Collegiate National Championships.

Because of three empty cans of Natural Light and a plastic cup that was said to have been "used for liquor" left in a CRI van, the university crushed this year's team by taking away their chance to compete for the national title. Individuals tried to take responsibility for this inexcusable violation of university and CRI/RAC policies, but the decision was made to punish the entire team, which consists of about 30 eligible and 10 ineligible players.

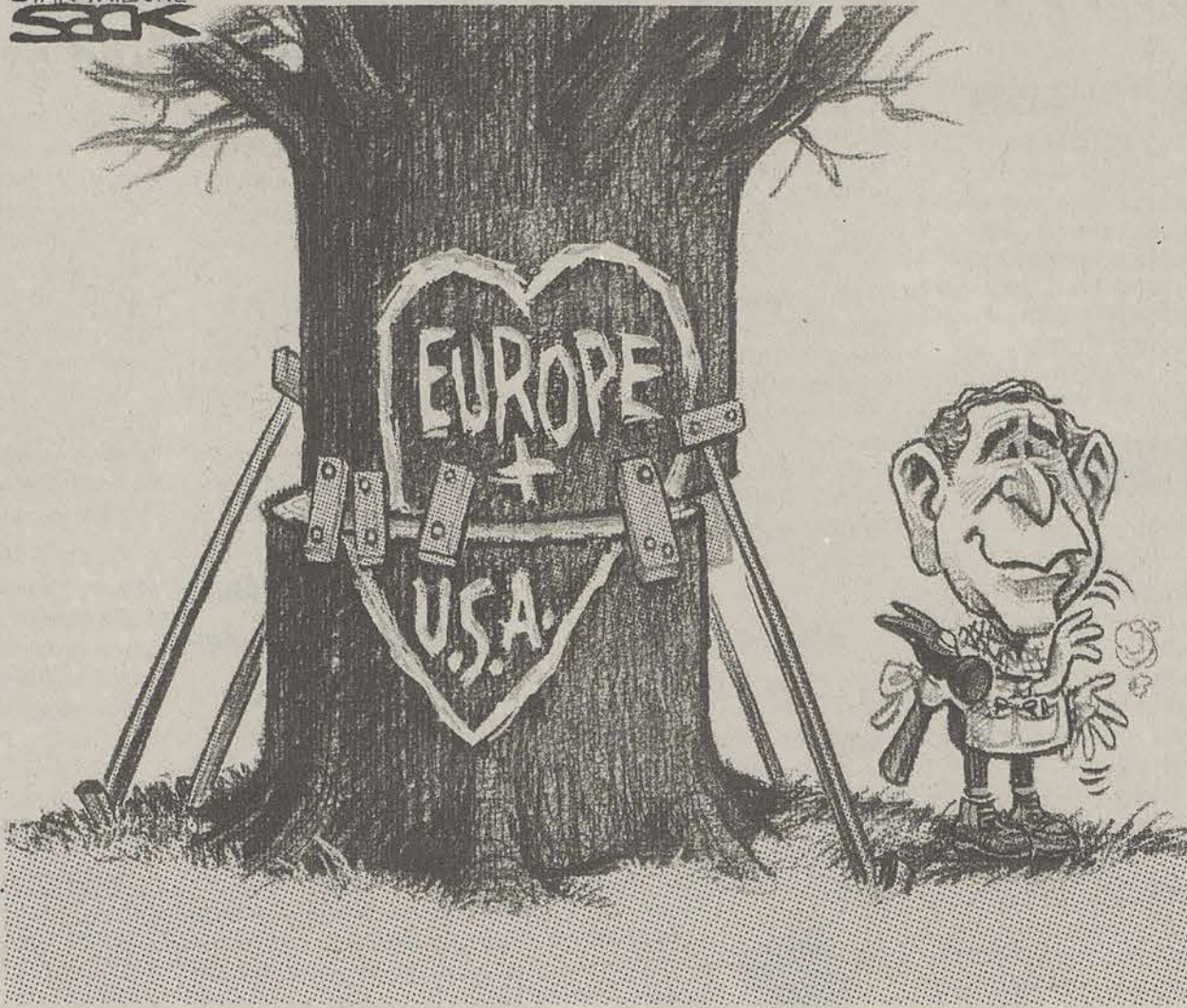
Seven of the starting fifteen for the GSU Rugby team don't even drink alcohol.

In appealing to university officials, Team Captain Matt Williams and other team members agreed on some type of appropriate punishment, but begged to be allowed to participate in the rest of the Matrix season. Their appeals were denied.

The team has decided to continue with regular practices to prepare for next year. Arkansas State, a rival and now probable representative of the USA Rugby South Division in the National Championships, has caught wind of what has transpired and decided to come to Statesboro and play GSU out of respect.

The GSU Rugby team would like to thank Steve and Gene from the RAC for their continued toleration, compassion and support. Thanks also to the local business establishments that support GSU Rugby. The team would also like to thank the sports staff of *The George-Anne* for getting a Rugby team an article on the front page for the first time.

By Johnny Miami
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STAR TRIBUNE
S&K

Hooray for progress against death penalty

The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that no one convicted of a crime under the age of 18 can be sentenced to death. That ruling makes me happy.

It's not the fact that 16-year-olds cannot be sentenced to death that makes me overjoyed; it's the fact that the court of mostly embalmed corpses is starting to realize that it's not OK for states in this country to kill people.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist was one of those that wanted to uphold the executions. To be honest, though, I don't think I blame him. He was appointed to the Supreme Court sometime in the late 1800s—back when it was OK to hang a man in the town square—so one should not blame him.

Anton Scalia also wanted to uphold the current policy. He is the justice who doesn't understand freedom of the press (also known as the First Amendment), as he forced reporters to delete their recordings of a public talk he gave a year or so ago. This being said, why would one expect him to understand the eighth one, which deals with cruel and unusual pun-

ishment? Makes sense that he would want to keep the policy of sentencing minors to death.

On a serious note, though, I think it's important that this ruling was passed. It shows that there are people out there who care about human lives, including leaders in Washington.

It also shows there are some moves being made in the general direction of treating humans like humans in a country where we toot our own horns constantly about how humane we are, all the while condemning countries like Iraq and Sudan for being barbaric by killing their own citizens.

No matter how you look at it, the government killing a man killed here in America is no different than Saddam killing his own people in the 90s. It's murder, it's cruel, it's barbaric and it needs to stop.

While yesterday's ruling didn't end legal killings in the United States for good, it has put us one step closer.

Luke Hearn is news editor for *The George-Anne* and can be reached at ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu.



Luke Hearn
news editor

Network TV continues to demonize American Arabs

By Jack Shaheen
KRT Campus

The entertainment industry's boogeyman is on the loose again.

On the critically acclaimed TV show "24," American Muslims and American Arabs are being demonized once more.

It all started with the 2002 CBS movie "The President's Man: A Line In the Sand," where American Arabs and some Arabs who aren't citizens get together to nuke Texas.

Then Fox struck, cramming 13 episodes of "24" into its 2002-2003 season. The show embellished "The President's Man" storyline, showing Arab-American and Arab terrorists out to nuke Los Angeles.

Now, "24" is rehashing the same biased plot – American Muslims out to nuke our country, killing neighbors in the process. So far the protagonist, Jack Bauer, played by Kiefer Sutherland, has gunned down 100 Muslim American "fanatics."

Fox isn't alone.

"Family Law," "Judging Amy," "The District" and "The Practice" have had storylines that imply that airlines should discriminate against us, that we should be jailed without due process, and that we burn down our own mosques and abuse our children.

"Third Watch" has shown us making radioactive bombs, and pitted us against the NYPD. "JAG," "Navy NCIS," "The Agency," "Sue Thomas FB Eye" and other shows have portrayed us as traitors and terrorists who run sleeper cells in mosques.

To their credit, programs like "Boston Public," "Jack and Bobby," "7th Heaven" and

"Strong Medicine" have reflected positive images of American Arabs that help to unite us. But overall, television writers and network producers are making their message clear: American Arabs are dangerous terrorists and should be feared.

Until recently, we American Arabs – all 3 million of us – were invisible on TV screens. Only Danny Thomas ("Make Room for Daddy") and Jamie Farr ("M*A*S*H") portrayed likable Arab-American characters.

Oh, to be invisible now.

Today, American Arabs and American Muslims have gone from being invisible to being all over the tube.

We have been assaulted by more than 50 programs searing into viewers' hearts and minds the notion that we are Osama's cohorts, despicable terrorist ragheads.

Unfortunately, these powerful stereotypes injure innocent people and have a terrible impact on our society.

Today, 44 percent of Americans believe the government should restrict the civil liberties of American Muslims, according to a recent Cornell University study. And nearly one in three Americans says the government should engage in racial profiling and that federal agents should infiltrate American Muslim organizations.

Since Sept. 11, some of our co-workers and neighbors look at us differently.

The U.S. government has held more than 1,100 people of Middle East origin without trial.

Innocent Americans have been killed, and more than 3,000 hate crimes have been reported to the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Network leaders should meet with leaders of the American Arab and Muslim communities, and they should commit to innovative family shows that reflect the positive aspects of all faiths.

Producers could create characters modeled after real-life Arab-Americans, such as Ambassador Selwa Roosevelt or the father of modern cardiovascular surgery, Dr. Michael DeBakey, or consumer advocate Ralph Nader or our nation's first jet ace, Col. James Jabara.

Writers and producers ought to show us as true Americans: devout fathers and mothers, military veterans, teens catching flyballs and families walking on the beach.

Show us as we are.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Jack G. Shaheen is the author of "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People," "Arab and Muslim Stereotypes in American Popular Culture" and "The TV Arab." The writer wrote this for *Progressive Media Project*, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with *The Progressive* magazine. Readers may write to the author at: *Progressive Media Project*, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org.

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The *George-Anne* welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns from people both inside and outside the GSU community. All copy submitted should be 250 words or less, typed, preferably sent via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission. Submissions are run on a space-available basis.

Men's SoCon Basketball Tourney tips off today

By Matt Rapp
gasportseditor@yahoo.com

The Georgia Southern Men's basketball squad begins their quest for a NCAA Tournament bid this Wednesday as the Eagles take on Western Carolina in the Kyocera Southern Conference Championship at McKenzie Arena in Chattanooga, Tenn.

GSU finished in a tie for second place in the South Division, however they lost the tie breaker with College of Charleston, resulting in a third place seed in the SoCon Tournament.

The Eagles (17-12 overall) are coming off a huge 97-91 win against East Tennessee State that was televised in front of a national audience.

With wins against all Southern Conference teams except undefeated Davidson, the Eagles are more than confident that they have what it takes for a conference championship.

Falling to Davidson early in the season, the Eagles almost managed to strip the Wildcats of their perfect SoCon record, losing by only five points at Belk Arena.

In early January, the Eagles beat Western Carolina

85-76 in Cullowhee, NC. Elton Nesbitt led GSU with an impressive 23 points. Terry Williams scored 16 points, surpassing 1,000 career points. Jean Francois also surpassed the 1,000 point milestone during Saturday's game against East Tennessee State with 14 points.

All three of these players were voted All-Southern Conference by the league's head coaches on Monday. This was the first time in GSU history that this has happened.

Additionally, Louis Graham was named to the All-Freshman team. Graham finished the regular season averaging 7.9 points and 6.7 rebounds, while his 52 percent

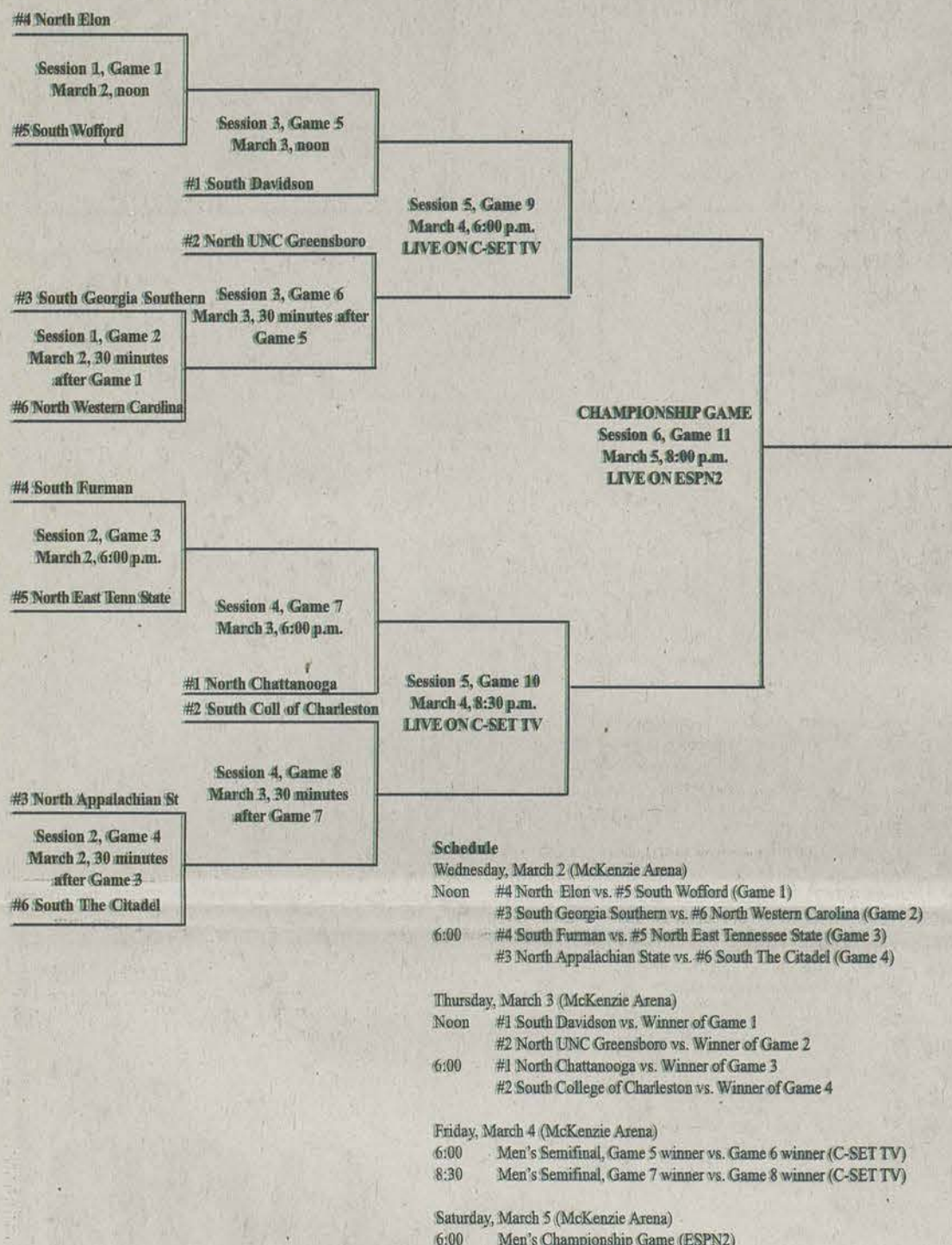
shooting average and 44 blocks were both team highs. His block total set a new GSU single season record.

The winner of today's game will take on the North's number two seed, UNC Greensboro. That game will take place on Thursday, 30 minutes following the noon game. The Eagles beat UNC Greensboro on the road 85-79 in February.

If the Eagles can win their first two bracket games, they will likely play Davidson. Playing at a neutral court, nobody should count the Eagles out after their close performance in mid-February.

2005 Southern Conference Men's Basketball Championship

March 2-5, 2005 • McKenzie Area • Chattanooga, TN



Chase Lanier/STAFF

GSU junior guard Elton Nesbitt takes the ball down court during the Eagles' February 5 game against the Furman Paladins. The Eagles face Western Carolina today in the first round of the SoCon Championship. Be sure to check out the women's basketball SoCon tournament preview in tomorrow's *George-Ann*.

Hudson, Braves agree to \$47 million contract extension

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. - Hudson probably would have gotten more money by becoming a free agent. He had other things on his mind, like playing close to home for the team he rooted for as a kid.

Hudson completed a \$47 million, four-year contract extension with the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday, giving up the chance to go through free agency at the end of the season.

"I knew all along this was the place

I wanted to be," Hudson said. "It was just a matter of getting together with a fair-enough contract."

Hudson will make \$6.75 million this year. His new deal calls for a \$10 million signing bonus, payable when the contract is approved by the commissioner's office, and salaries of \$4 million in 2006, \$6 million in 2007 and \$13 million each in 2008 and 2009.

Hudson's extension contains a \$12 million mutual option for 2010 with a \$1 million buyout. If the option is

exercised, the deal would be worth \$58 million over five years.

"We look forward to Tim being the cornerstone for us going into a new era of excellent Braves pitching," general manager John Schuerholz said.

A former 20-game winner, Hudson was traded from Oakland to Atlanta in December. He figures he would have commanded at least \$15 million a year as a free agent, but was willing to settle for less to play for the Braves.

The 29-year-old right-hander was a Braves fan growing up near Columbus, Ga. He attended Auburn University and is planning to build a home in that Alabama town, about a two-hour drive from Atlanta and already home to his parents.

With two young daughters and another child on the way - Hudson's wife is due in April - the pitcher was willing to sacrifice a few million dollars to get a deal done with the Braves.

Once the two sides began serious negotiations, things went smoothly. The main points were agreed on several days ago, leaving plenty of time to finalize the deal before Hudson's self-imposed Tuesday deadline to reach an extension.

While still in Oakland, Hudson said he wouldn't discuss a new contract

after March 1 because he didn't want to be distracted during the season.

Hudson's main demand was four guaranteed years. Generally, the Braves prefer to give pitchers no more than three years, but Schuerholz felt comfortable adding on another season for someone of Hudson's stature - especially when he agreed to backload \$26 million into the final two years, giving the team more flexibility in the short term.

By signing Hudson, the Braves signaled that the painful process of cutting payroll has bottomed out.

Ordered by corporate owner Time Warner to slice about \$20 million, the team lost Tom Glavine, Kevin Millwood, Greg Maddux, Gary Sheffield, Vinny Castilla, J.D. Drew, Jaret Wright and Russ Ortiz over the past three off-seasons.

Atlanta should have one of the best rotations in baseball

John Smoltz, a former Cy Young winner, is starting again after three years as the closer. The Braves also have John Thomson (14-8), Mike Hampton (13-9) and promising left-hander Horacio Ramirez.

Atlanta has secured the top two spots in its rotation for at least two more seasons. Smoltz worked out a

new \$20 million deal that will keep him with the Braves through at least 2006.

Smoltz, the only player who has been with the team for its entire run of 13 straight division titles, was ecstatic to hear about Hudson's contract extension.

"You're talking to a guy who has seen so many guys have to go for the same reason that Tim Hudson would have had to go - because they never got it done before the year was up," Smoltz said. "This is good."

Hudson, who has a career record of 92-39, became available to the Braves when the budget-conscious A's decided he wouldn't fit their budget.

Last season, Hudson went 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA in 27 starts, but spent a month on the disabled list with an injury to his left side.

Schuerholz said the Braves aren't concerned that the ailment - which is caused by Hudson's twisting windup - will become a recurring problem.

"He has gone through a workout regimen during the offseason to strengthen that area," the GM said. "He feels great. The trainer says he hasn't been in the training room all spring."

Now, he's on his way to the bank.

Unearned runs costly for Eagles in loss to Georgia Tech

GSU Athletic Media Relations

Five Georgia Southern errors led to four unearned runs as the Eagles dropped a 9-1 decision at 13th-ranked Georgia Tech Tuesday afternoon. Both teams finished with seven hits but five Eagle pitchers combined for 10 walks issued.

Brett Pelfrey lined a two-out double in the third inning. Jason Hurst extended his hitting streak to 18 games thanks to a RBI single scoring Pelfrey.

However, the Yellow Jackets (8-2) scored two runs in the second and third inning. Georgia Tech added three more runs in the sixth then one each in the seventh and eighth frame.

Pelfrey and Flint Wipke each hit a double while Hurst had two of the team's seven hits and was hit by a pitch.

Dustin Evans (0-3) gave up four runs (two earned) through 4.2 innings. He struck out one but walked five batters. Thomas Turner could not record an out after giving up three runs (two earned) off two hits.

Mike Chicak allowed one unearned run off a hit in two innings. He struck out a team-leading three batters.

Six of Georgia Tech's starters recorded a hit. Tyler Green finished with two runs and two RBIs.

The Eagles return to J.I. Clements Stadium this weekend, hosting Buffalo in a three-game series, starting Friday night, March 4 at 7 p.m.



Scott Audette/AP Photo

Atlanta Braves pitcher Tim Hudson throws batting practice to the Braves position players on Monday, Feb. 28 at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Kissimmee, Fla.

Southern Conference media name three to All-Conference Squad

GSU Media Relations

SPARTANBURG, SC - For the second consecutive day, Georgia Southern placed three players on the men's basketball all-conference team, this time as voted by the Southern Conference media, on Tuesday.

Elton Nesbitt, Jean Francois and

Terry Williams, were each named all-conference by the coaches yesterday. According to the Media All-SoCon announcement, Nesbitt was named First Team, while Francois and Williams were each named Second Team. It was Williams' second all-conference honor in as many years, as the media voted him to the Third Team last sea-

son. It was the first honor for Nesbitt and Francois.

This marked the first time in the history of GSU men's basketball that three players were named all-conference by the SoCon media.

GSU was the only school to place as many as three players on the three all-conference teams. Chattanooga,

Davidson and UNC Greensboro each had two representatives.

The conference's second-leading scorer at 20.5 ppg, Nesbitt leads the SoCon with his 84.4 free throw percentage and in '3s' made with 90 on the season. The junior also shot 37.7 percent from 3-point territory, while his 62 steals equals a team-high.

Francois is averaging a career-high 14.5 points while his 7.8 rebounds leads GSU.

Francois finished within the SoCon's Top 15 in scoring, rebounding, blocked shots (0.93) and minutes played (31.96).

Williams averages 13.5 points and dishes out a team-high 4.7 assists.

His 62 steals matches Nesbitt for the team lead.

The quest for an NCAA Tournament bid begins Wednesday for the Eagles as they face Western Carolina in the Kyocera SoCon Championship in Chattanooga, Tenn. Game time is set for 30 minutes following the completion of the noon game.